

Tale **Feathers**

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October General Membership Meeting: Writing Nature

“Audubon, Thoreau, Peterson, Carson, Frost: intimately familiar names in American art and literature.

Observing nature and writing has a long tradition in America and if we expand the definition a bit we can include photography, artwork, field guides, science books and personal journals. The creation of the electronic space opened up digital photography file sharing, list serves and blogs.

Dave Rogles, a member of the St. Louis Audubon Society, will explore these endeavors in sharing a personal path toward keeping journals. He will provide some amateur thoughts on “Writing Nature”, and present some examples from local artists, photographers and writers. Reviewing both the pen and pencil set and the gonzo electronic artists, he will present some ideas about why we keep journals of any kind, how to get started, and where to post (or read) electronic journals. Materials for further study will include a short bibliography and a listing of some of the more interesting websites. Join SLAS for this program on October 18, 2005 at 7:30, at Powder Valley Nature Center. The membership meeting will be held in the Powder Valley Nature Center Auditorium.

St. Louis Audubon Society

Opportunities

and

Announcements

Mission Statement
of
The St. Louis
Audubon Society

Help our community
sustain biological
Diversity through
Nature.

Goals
To foster an aware-
ness and under-
standing
of birds and other
wildlife and their
habitats

To educate our com-
munity so people
can make
informed decisions
about the natural
world.

Audubon To Teach Class at Meramec Community College

St. Louis Audubon Society members will teach a class for the Master Naturalist program at Meramec Comm. College this fall. The 2 hour class will be held on Tuesday, November 29, with a full afternoon field trip to follow on Saturday, Dec. 3. The title of the class will be Raptors in St. Louis. Anyone wishing to assist in this class should contact either Vicki Flier (314-968-9166) or Sharon Nickl (636-391-8751). Also, anyone having any special material pertinent to this class is requested to contact us as soon as possible.

Ivory-Billed Woodpecker Program

On Saturday, November 19, 2005 at the Powder Valley Nature Center, the World Bird Sanctuary is hosting an event 'A Ghost from the Past' - The Re-Discovery of the Ivory Billed Woodpecker by James Fitzpatrick. Jim is the Director of the Carpenter Nature Center and was a member of the Ivory Billed Woodpecker Discovery Team. He will talk about his experience as he actually saw an Ivory-billed Woodpecker fly straight toward him above the treetops. The event will start at 7:00pm and is free and opened to the public! If you have any questions, please contact the World Bird Sanctuary at 636-225-4390. Please be sure to attend!

Shaw Nature Reserve Offers Tours This Fall

Enjoy the beauty of fall with a guided tour of Shaw Nature Reserve on the Wilderness Wagon! A naturalist will accompany you on the three-mile narrated drive around the Trail House Loop Road. The Wilderness Wagon, an open-sided vehicle, can accommodate 28 people for an enjoyable one hour tour. Until October 30, the Wilderness Wagon is available for the general public to ride on Saturday and Sunday afternoons at 1, 2, and 3 pm. No reservations are necessary. The cost is only \$1, plus general admission of \$3 for Adults, \$2 seniors 65+. Admission to Shaw Nature Reserve is free for children 12 years and under and for Missouri Botanical Garden members.

Shaw Nature Reserve is a 2400-acre natural area located just off I-44 at the Gray Summit exit #253. It is open 7 days a week. For more information, call 636-451-3512 Ext. 6075.

Birding Trips: October-September

John Solodar

October 1, Saturday - Riverlands, Ellis Island Big Sit - Big sits are becoming a popular alternative to the hectic Big Day activity. Joe Eades anticipates that the tip of Ellis Island will be an excellent place for sitting in one place and seeing what comes by. At this time of year in the past Ellis Bay has produced Sabine's Gulls and even one Little Gull plus lots of other interesting birds. We'll arrange for some cars to drive all the way out to the point (the parking area there is fairly small) to make it easier. Others can hike out from the Ellis Island parking lot and do some good birding along the way. We'll meet at 8:00 AM at Teal Pond and then drive over to Ellis Island or car pool if there are more cars than the Ellis Island parking lot can handle. Bring lunch if you plan to stay a long time, water and a scope if you have one.

October 15, Saturday - Two Rivers NWR, Riverlands, Jones Confluence Park - Pat Lueders will lead this trip starting at 8:00 AM at the Gilbert Lake access of Two Rivers NWR. After birding the Gilbert Lake area the group will take the ferry to Calhoun County to visit the refuge headquarters, the pump station, the volcano, etc. Those who want to go for a longer trip will go on to Riverlands and the Jones Confluence Park on the Missouri side. Lunch will probably be at the Two Rivers HQ building.

November 5, Saturday - Horseshoe Lake Area Mike Thelen will lead this trip to Horseshoe Lake and some surrounding areas. We'll hope to find various ducks, gulls, wintering sparrows and whatever else may be coming through. We'll start at 8:00 AM for this half day trip.

November 19, Saturday - Busch/Weldon Spring - This trip to Busch Conservation Area and Weldon Springs starts at 8:00 AM. Lots of winter birds should be here by now and we may see Harris' Sparrow, both nuthatches and other interesting land birds. The lakes should offer a variety of gulls and ducks. This trip will be led by Mike Thelen.

How to get there

Riverlands - Take Hwy 367 north from I-270. The designation changes to Hwy 67 just beyond the 4th traffic light, but continue. Turn right on last road just before the Clark Bridge at the Mississippi River. (Fisca gas station at this turn.) Turn right on the first road and park in the Teal Pond parking lot.

Twin Rivers Nat Wildlife Area Gilbert Lake Access - From the intersection of I-270 and Hwy 367 on the northern loop of I-270, follow Hwy 367 then Hwy 67 north as if going to Riverlands, but go over the Clark Bridge into Alton IL. Go left on Route 143 at the end of the bridge and left again at the intersection with Route 100. Follow Route 100 upriver through Grafton. Just north of the Brussels Ferry landing on the left side of the road is a sign for the Gilbert Lake area. There is a parking lot just inside the gate.

Horseshoe Lake - Take I-70 east across Poplar Street ridge. Exit at Highway 111 (exit 6) and turn left. Go north a few miles to the State park entrance (on left). Meet at the first parking lot on the right.

Busch Conservation Area - Take U.S.40/I-64 west into St. Charles County. Take Hwy 94 south from U.S 40 about 1 mile to Hwy D. Turn right and go about 1.5 miles to the entrance on the right. Turn left at the "T" to Hampton Lake and meet in the parking lot.



“Part of something greater. . . .”

by Jim H. Wilson

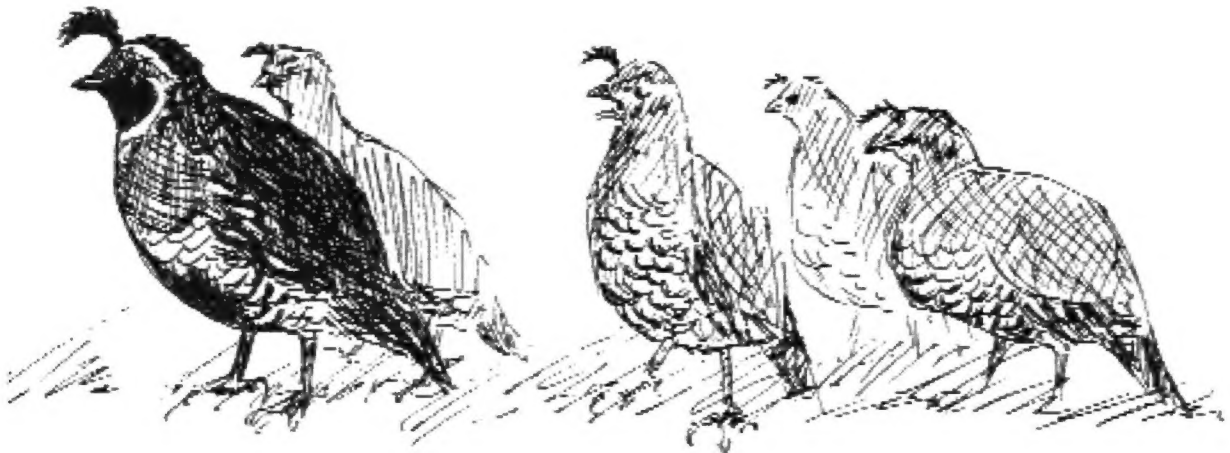
Each year for the last ten years, just before the tamaracks turn their legendary smoky gold, a dedicated band of outdoor folk gather for renewal at a small weathered shack in the “sand county” area of central Wisconsin. This is the annual conference of the Leopold Education Project, a program of the Pheasants Forever organization. The Leopold Education Project, or LEP as it often calls itself, is aimed at fostering the development of a “land ethic”, as articulated by the scientist and author Aldo Leopold in his famous “Sand County Almanac”. This gathering of teachers, scientists, birders, and outdoor enthusiasts come from different backgrounds but find unity in their passion for passing on Leopold’s ethical respect for the land, and the plants and animals that make up the land organism. That passion becomes almost reverence during the traditional visit to the Leopold “Shack” where he and his family practiced community restoration and he crystallized his philosophy in his writings.

This year (August 18-21) the conference featured workshops led by Dr. Dennis Yockers from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and the LEP staff headed up by Ed Pembleton, director of the Project and former staff member of the National Audubon Society. Forest Service songwriter/storyteller Rita Cantu has a strong personal connection to the Leopold legacy. Rita provided a spiritual center for the event through a workshop and campfire performance. A special showing of the U.S. Forest Service video, “For the Greatest Good”, provided spectacular documentation of the development of conservation through the interactions of Teddy Roosevelt, Gifford Pinchot, John Muir, Aldo Leopold and other early conservationists. A tour of the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison provided not only a sense of the history of forest resource use, but a vision of the direction of forest utilization for the future.

In a final session, Nina Leopold Bradley, daughter of Aldo Leopold, provided enthusiastic endorsement for the work of the gathering as well as personal recollections of her father and the early years at the Shack. “The Shack gave him (Leopold) a true sense of place—a sense of being part of something greater than himself”, she said. Nina, who has strong connections to Missouri, is the vital, gracious embodiment of the continuing Leopold presence.

Dr. Art Hawkins, Leopold’s only surviving graduate student, provided a provocative paper relating to his experience studying under Professor Leopold. Art tied that experience to the Ivory-billed woodpecker in a creative way and titled his paper “Professor Aldo Leopold, the Ivory-billed Woodpecker and Me”. The full text of that paper is available by requesting it from wilsonjh@umsl.edu.

A pilgrimage to the Annual Conference of the Leopold Education Project is a journey of hope, revival and spirit. It reminds us of those who have pointed the way, the work remaining to be done and the friends, new and old, who stand with us. Find out about next year’s conference by staying in touch with the Leopold Education Project at www.lep.org.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

John Torrey Berger, Jr.

As mentioned in previous reports, in my opinion, SLAS's "nitch", that is what we do better than anyone else, is basic bird and conservation education. We emphasize this because we believe that if you make someone a birder/nature observer, you will make them a conservationist. They then join SLAS and become informed and involved in the activities of our Conservation Committee. This is the committee where the rubber meets the road with respect to environmental issues and it is the subject of this month's report.

The primary business of the Conservation Committee is to prepare and disseminate to the proper venues, the SLAS position with respect to various conservation/environmental issues. Current issues for which the Committee has filed position documents include:

- (1) The U. S. Forest Service's Mark Twain National Forest Plan Revision which included issues relative to management for bird populations, clear cut vs. uneven -aged management logging and off-road vehicle regulations.
- (2) U. S. Army Corp of Engineers proposals for Lock and Dam construction on the Mississippi River;
- (3) The Corp of Engineers' St. John/New Madrid Bayou proposal, which would destroy much of the only remaining bottomland forest in Missouri.

In addition, the Conservation Committee and SLAS as a whole have been active in a number of on the ground conservation projects this year. We provided funds to the Mo. Department of Conservation (MDC) to construct chimney swift towers at Emmenegger Park and Columbia Bottoms Conservation Area. We provided funding and labor for the placing of Barn Owl nesting boxes at Maris Temps Clair. We provided the manpower to assist MDC with rail and bittern surveys at the B.K. Leach Conservation Area, and had many members participating in the annual North American Migratory Bird Count.

Through the efforts of Sue Gustafson, our past Conservation Vice President, SLAS is the sponsoring organization for seven U.S. Fish and Wildlife grants under the Urban Bird Treaty Program for habitat restoration projects at Tower Grove Park, Forest Park, Little Creve Coeur Marsh and the Green Center.

In addition to everything else she does, our current Vice President of Conservation, Linda Tossing, is SLAS's representative to the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative (MoBCI) where she is an active member of its steering committee (see article herein about the recent MoBCI annual meeting). Suffice it to say here that MoBCI is a unique coalition of some 30 plus bird oriented groups (including environmental, species oriented and hunting groups) which in only two years from its founding has been able to make grants in excess of \$750,000 for on-the-ground bird habitat restoration projects in Missouri. SLAS was able to obtain one such grant of \$17,500 for the Little Creve Coeur Marsh wetlands restoration.

For more information on these important activities, watch for upcoming programs and for conservation reports in Tail Feathers. If you have questions or want to get involved, call Linda Tossing, 314-849-4260 or me, 314-579-9227.

St. Louis Audubon Society's Annual Bird Seed Sale

Order by Tuesday, October 18th

Pickup, Friday, October 21st from 5 p.m until 7 p.m. or

Saturday, October 22nd from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m.

Make check payable to: St. Louis Audubon Society and mail to:
Anne Rankin Horton
718 Inglestone Court
Manchester, MO 63021
(636) 256-3402

Pick up will be at the Wild Bird Center in Creve Coeur:
Bellerive Plaza
12792 Olive Boulevard
Creve Coeur, Mo 63141
(314) 439-9453

All proceeds from the birdseed sale fund education outreach programs.

Wild Bird Center is located approximately two miles west of I-270 near Mason Road and Timber Run in the Bellerive Plaza. Look for the store between Schnucks and Silkys. Any Audubon member who would like to shop during this time gets a 10% discount off any merchandise purchased at the store.

Birdseed Order Form

Make check payable to:	Bird Seed Type	Lbs/Bag	Quantity	Cost	Subtotal
St. Louis Audubon Society and mail to:	Black Oil	25lb	_____	\$11	_____
Anne Rankin Horton	Sunflower	50lb	_____	\$20	_____
718 Inglestone Ct.					
Manchester, MO 63021	No-Waste Mix	25lb	_____	\$9	_____
NAME: _____		50lb	_____	\$50	_____
ADDRESS: _____	Premium No-Waste				
_____	"ideal for patios or				
_____	apartments"	20lb	_____	\$10	_____
_____		40lb	_____	\$18	_____
	Safflower	25lb	_____	\$24	_____
	Seed	50lb	_____	\$43	_____
	Thistle/Niger	10lb	_____	\$15	_____
Phone: _____	SUBTOTAL				_____

Developments at Riverlands

John Solodar

Two items of interest for those who go birding at Riverlands: First, the official name has changed as of mid-August. It is now known as Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary. The designation of Riverlands as an Important Bird Area was one of the factors behind the name change.

Second is news of a birding festival to be held at Riverlands next spring. It will be called the Wings of Spring Birding Festival and will take place Friday and Saturday, April 28 and 29, 2006. The intent is to highlight the Confluence area as a center of birding and general nature interest.

Activities will be centered at Riverlands with exhibition tents, vendor displays and nature walks near the headquarters building and along Riverlands Way. Group birding trips will be offered to outlying confluence areas such as Columbia Bottom and Two Rivers NWR.

Prairie Chicken Details Emerging

John Solodar

We (Pat Lueders and I) have been receiving a number of inquiries regarding the April 7-9, 2006 trip to see Prairie Chickens. Here are some answers.

We have reservations at The Nature Conservancy's Dunn Ranch for very early Saturday morning, April 8. We chose this location because the number of birds there may be the highest in the state and the availability of blinds almost ensures good viewing of the birds. After we see the Prairie Chickens our plan is to continue birding on Dunn Ranch. TNC will arrange a guide for us which will be of great help in finding our way around the ranch. We will leave late Saturday and start back toward St. Louis with an overnight stay somewhere near a location that can offer good birding on Sunday.

The Conservancy and MDC have arranged to expand the blinds so that twenty people can now be accommodated. Dunn Ranch is in the northwest corner of the state and will require a 5-6 hr drive to get there.

Renting vans to save on gas and parking congestion at Dunn Ranch is under consideration. We are investigating motels and restaurants in the area. We plan to charge about \$25 per person for this trip. This will include a fee for Saturday's guide (our decision to pay this person for his/her time) and a donation to TNC for the use of Dunn Ranch.

Final details are still being worked out and will be published in the January issue of *Talefeathers*. At that time we will announce a signup procedure that will probably be of 7-10 days duration in early February. It is likely that more than our limit of twenty people will sign up for this trip. If we get close to 40 applications we will ask TNC if we can have half the people come on Sunday, April 9. Ultimately we will most likely have to use a lottery process to select those who can attend.

Tale Feathers

Tale Feathers is published monthly by the St. Louis Audubon Society. Messenger Printing prints 2,500 copies of each newsletter on recycled paper using soy ink. Mary Dueren edits the newsletter.

St. Louis Audubon Society 2004 - 2005

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As a joint member with National Audubon, you will receive National Audubon's quarterly magazine (Audubon) as well as St. Louis Audubon Society's Newsletter (Tale Feathers). Now you also have the opportunity to join only the St. Louis Audubon Society, receive Tale Feathers, and participate in the educational and conservation activities of St. Louis Audubon. There is no distinction between individual and family membership. Dues cover all members at the same address. For information, call (314) 822-6595.

Use this form to join St. Louis Audubon / National Audubon

For joint membership in St. Louis Audubon Society and National Audubon Society, Make checks payable to **National Audubon Society** and mail to St. Louis Audubon Society, P.O.Box 220227, Kirkwood, MO. 63122

_____Membership/\$35 For renewal in the National Audubon Society, we recommend that you use the forms supplied by National Audubon. For more information, contact Anne Rankin Horton at 636-256-3402.

_____Introductory Membership / \$20 _____Special Two -Year Introductory Membership / \$30

_____Senior Citizen (62 and older) / \$15 (New and renewal) _____Student / \$15 (New and renewal)

Membership in only the St. Louis Audubon Society: Write checks payable to **SLAS**. Mail to St. Louis Audubon Society, P.O. Box 220227, Kirkwood, MO 63122.

_____Local Chapter Membership only (St. Louis Audubon Society), Introductory and renewal / \$15

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

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